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Anmelder/Applicant/Demandeur/Patentinhaber/Propriétaire/Titulaire Shiple Company LLC	

COMMUNICATION

The European Patent Office herewith transmits as an enclosure the European search report for the above-mentioned European patent application.

If applicable, copies of the documents cited in the European search report are attached.

☐ Additional set(s) of copies of the documents cited in the European search report is (are) enclosed as well.

The following specifications given by the applicant have been approved by the Search Division:

☒ abstract

☒ title

☐ The abstract was modified by the Search Division and the definitive text is attached to this communication.

The following figure will be published together with the abstract: **NONE**

REFUND OF THE SEARCH FEE

If applicable under Article 10 Rules relating to fees, a separate communication from the Receiving Section on the refund of the search fee will be sent later.





DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.CI.7)
X	US 3 963 590 A (DEYRUP EDWARD JOHNSON) 15 June 1976 (1976-06-15) * claim 1 * * column 2, line 5-11 * * example 2 *	1-10	C08J7/02 C09K13/00 C23C18/26
X	EP 0 421 123 A (SHIPLEY CO) 10 April 1991 (1991-04-10) * page 3, line 34-39 * * page 4, line 18-25 * * claim 1 *	1-10	
X	US 5 985 040 A (POLAKOVIC FRANK ET AL) 16 November 1999 (1999-11-16) * claims 1,4 *	1-10	
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1995, no. 09, 31 October 1995 (1995-10-31) & JP 07 166195 A (TONEN CORP), 27 June 1995 (1995-06-27) * abstract *	1-10	
X	US 5 019 425 A (ROEMER MICHAEL ET AL) 28 May 1991 (1991-05-28) * column 1, line 63-65 * * column 4, line 11 *	1-10	
A	US 5 308 527 A (LALLIER JEAN-PIERRE ET AL) 3 May 1994 (1994-05-03) * column 1, line 42 *	1-10	
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 10 May 2002	Examiner Natus, G
<div>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</div> <div><div>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</div><div>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</div></div>			

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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10-05-2002

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